

PLEASE NOTE: Legislative Information **cannot** perform research, provide legal advice, or interpret Maine law. For legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.

## **An Act To Prohibit Texting while Driving**

**Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

**Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §2119** is enacted to read:

### **§ 2119. Text messaging while operating motor vehicle; prohibition**

**1. Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Cellular telephone" means a device used to access wireless telephone service.

B. "Portable electronic device" means any portable electronic device that is not part of the operating equipment of a motor vehicle, including but not limited to an electronic game, device for sending or receiving e-mail, text messaging device, cellular telephone and computer.

C. "Text messaging" means reading or manually composing or sending electronic communications, including text messages, instant messages and e-mails, using a portable electronic device. "Text messaging" does not include using a global positioning or navigation system.

**2. Prohibition.** A person may not operate a motor vehicle while engaging in text messaging.

**3. Penalty.** A person who violates this section commits a traffic infraction for which a fine of not less than \$100 may be adjudged.

## **SUMMARY**

This bill provides that a person may not operate a motor vehicle while engaging in text messaging.